(c) how it is proposed to ensure that the benefits reach poor and that pharma companies do not take advantage of this concession for their own benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of on-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Discrimination towards Talcher unit

†440. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether real status of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) Talcher unit of Orissa;

(b) the way Government wants to utilize its township; and

(c) whether it does not reflect the discrimination of Centre towards the State by closing Talcher unit only while other units of FCI, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, etc. have been revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Pursuant to a decision taken

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

earlier, the FCIL including its Talcher Unit was closed down w.e.f. 05.09.2002.

(b) The Government is taking suitable measures to explore the possibilities of revival of sick/closed fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings including the Talcher Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India.

(c) Does not arise.

New pharmaceutical policy

441. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the New Pharmaceutical Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy; and

(c) the benefit to be made available to pharmaceutical companies for making available cheaper drugs to weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, a Draft Cabinet Note on National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 has been circulated to various Departments/Ministries for seeking their comments and the replies are awaited. Some of the salient features of the proposed policy include Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System. (by Health Department), Strengthening of patent office infrastructure. (by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion), Focus on Research and Development—Process Development, Drug Discovery, Drug Development and Clinical Trials, Human Resources Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences through more institutes like National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Rationlisation of Excise duty on pharmaceuticals, Stremlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government. (like the system of Tamil Nadu, Delhi Government), Promotion of Generic Drugs. (in purchase by Government hospitals), Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of